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To the Merchants and Traders, whose stolen goods were taken and brought into one of our ports by Captain MANLEY.

GENTLEMEN,
YOU are congratulated on your deliverance from that mighty loss you must have sustained, had not the vessel, which contained the goods of which you were robbed by that despotism that reigned in this town for a considerable time, happily fallen into the hands of one of our Privateers who brought her safely into Portsmouth. You are congratulated also on the wife and righteous determination of the Continental Congress, which gave to the captors a reasonable salvage only for their risk and trouble in taking, and bringing into port, the goods that were yours. You are likewise congratulated on the generosity and kindness of the Congress, in presenting you with two thirds of this salvage, which was theirs as a free gift.
In this view of your affairs, you will, it is trusted, make all due acknowledgments to the supreme ruler, to whose super-intending providence, it must ultimately be ascribed, that your circumstances in life are so much better than they would have been, had you lost what has been restored to you.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to put you upon remembering, and considering, that your obligations, with respect not only to the righteous, but generous and kind disposal of these goods in a way of commerce, are greater than the obligations of others, who have not been so favoured of heaven, in this day of trouble, as you have been. And it is the expectation both of God and man, that you proportionably distinguish yourselves, by making it to appear to all you may have to do with in trade, that it is your conscientious endeavour to deal justly, suitably mixing mercy with justice, as proper objects are offered therefor in the course of providence. Should you, after the example of most of our traders, take occasion from the necessities of others to demand of them more than is right and fit, fastening upon yourselves the charge of oppression and extortion, you would be far more inexcusably guilty than other oppressors and extortioners; as you would, under your circumstances, add to the sin of injustice, that of base ingratitude to the great governor of the world, who has been distinguishably kind and good to you in these times of general suffering.

Neither God nor men will blame you, should you put an advanced price upon the recovered goods you may have to sell, sufficient to repay you for the expense you have been at in coming to the possession of them; but should you rule in your demands beyond this, the overplus would be nothing better than so much money cruelly and unrighteously squeezed out of the pockets of those, who, it may be, have been, the most of them, as great, if not greater sufferers, than you have been, in this day of common grievance throughout these American States. It is not only the wish, but the expectation, of all I have had opportunity to converse with, that you may conduct in the sale of your lost and now recovered goods, so as to express a becoming gratitude to heaven, and a due regard to the great gospel law of equity, which requires your doing to others as you would they should do to you.

I have, Gentlemen, in a christian manner, wrote to you in time, in my own name, and on the behalf of thousands, to mind you of your duty in the present situation of your mercantile affairs. Our eye will be upon you to take notice of your demands, which, we hope, will be conformable to what may reasonably be expected, as you are not only men, but christians.

by profession; and, as such, believers in the coming day of God, when it shall be rendered to you, with accurate justice, according to your behaviour in this, as well as other instances of moral conduct.

I shall only add, if you have an heart to stem the present rapid current of oppression and extortion, setting an example, in the sale of your goods, of that nobly generous spirit, which seeketh not its own, but together therewith, and so as not to oppose and hurt, the welfare of others, you will honour yourselves, you will honour God, and be highly esteemed both by God and man. And should the extortioners that abound among us, be made so ashamed of their cruel injustice to their suffering brethren, by your good example held up to their view, as to amend their doings which have not been right, you would be instrumental in promoting the public good, and serving your country, in a measure beyond what you can easily imagine; and your names would be had in everlasting remembrance as those good men for whom one would even dare to die.

I am, Gentlemen, with all due Respect,
Your humble Servant,
Boston, November 4, 1776. F. W.

BERGEN, (New Jersey) September 25, 1776.

TO THE PRINTER.
As many false accounts of transactions in our army are by some means or other, published in gazettes, &c. at a distance, some of which are prejudicial to the common cause; it has been thought, a particular account of what has passed at Passaic's Hook (opposite New York) since the evacuation of that city by our troops, may be acceptable to your readers. If you are of the same opinion, the following extract from the journal of Col. Durkee's Chaplain, (who was an eye witness of all that passed) is at your service.

POWLES HOOK, Sept. 25, 1776.
AFTER Long-Island was evacuated, it was judged impossible to hold the city of New-York, and for several days the artillery and stores of every kind had been removing, and last night the sick were ordered to Newark, in the Jersey; but most of them could be got no further than this place and Hoebeck, and as there is but one house at each of these places, many were obliged to lie in the open air till the morning, where distress, when I walked out at day break; gave me a lively idea of the horror of war, than any thing I ever met with before—the commandant ordered them every thing for their comfort that the place afforded, and immediately forwarded them to the place appointed and prepared for them.

About 8 this morning, three large ships came to sail, and made up towards the Hook. The garrison, consisting of the 20th Continental Regiment, (C. L. Durkee's) and a regiment of Jersey militia, (Col. Duyckinck's) were ordered into our boats. So on after they had taken their posts, the ships came up near Jersey shore, to avoid our shot from the grand battery (the removal of the cannon from which they were ignorant of) and as they passed the North-River, kept up an incessant fire upon us; their shot (a great part of which was grape) raked the whole Hook, but providentially one horse was all the loss we sustained by it. The fire was briskly returned from our battery by Capt. Dana, who commanded a company of the train on this station.

It gave me great pleasure to see the spirit of the troops around me, who were evidently animated by the whistling of the enemy's shot, which often flew so near them as to cover them with dust.

About 11 o'clock, a furious cannonade was heard a little above New-York, and before night numbers came over from the city, and informed that it was evacuated by our troops, and about sunset we saw the tyrant's flag flying on fort George.

Having received intelligence that a number of our troops were in the city, and the enemy spread across the island above it, two small parties were ordered to assist them in making their escape. Two captains, with about 40 men, two brass howitzers, and about two tons of military stores were brought off by one of them; the other party, consisting of five men only, were fired upon by the enemy (supposed the Tories, who have committed a number of robberies on the friends of America) when you

Jeffe Squire of Norwich was wounded, who together with another fell into their hands.

16th. About a o'clock this morning, an attempt was made to burn the ship that passed up the North-River yesterday, and anchored about three miles above us; one of them (the Renown, of 30 guns) was grappled, but broke her grappling and came down by us again; another cannonade ensued, but no damage was received on our side.

The brave Col. Duyckinck, who did all he could to retain his men, could now keep his regiment no longer, but was obliged to retreat to Bergen, from which time Col. Durkee was left on the Hook with only a part of his regiment, consisting of about 300 effective men.

17th. An express arrived with information that Col. Williams from Connecticut was ordered to reinforce us, and might be expected the next day, but was not able to join us till our retreat to Bergen the 23d.

This day a large quantity of lead musket ball and buck shot was discovered in a suspected house, about a mile and an half above us, and brought down to this place and properly secured for the United States. Towards night the Renown returned back to her station up the North River, but kept the Eastern shore, to avoid the shot from our battery, which, however, kept up a brisk fire upon her as long as she was within reach.

18th. Nothing material happened here. Just at evening intelligence was received that the brave Lt. Col. Knowlton of our regiment was killed in the action that happened a little below Kingsbridge on Monday, as he was fighting with undaunted courage, at the head of a body of rangers, the command of which was assigned him. The joy the success of that action would have occasioned, was greatly lessened, in this department, by the loss of an officer so greatly respected and beloved.

20th. The Renown returned back again to the fleet, and though she passed close in with New-York shore, yet as there was very little wind, about 40 shot from our battery were fired at her, many of which took effect. She lay all next day upon a careen to repair.

21st. At a this morning, we were waked by the guards, who informed us that New-York was on fire. As the fire began at the South East end of the city, a little East of the grand battery, it was spread by a strong South wind, first on the East River, and then Northward, across the Broad Way, opposite to the old English Church, (If I mist-ke not the name) from thence it consumed all before it, between Broad-Way and the North River, near to the college, laying about one third part of the city in ashes is the opinion of those best acquainted with it; and had not the wind as it veered to the West, died away, the remainder of that nest of vipers would have been destroyed.

Ths evening a seaman who said he belonged to Providence, that he was taken and obliged to fight against his own countrymen on board the Roebuck, made his escape by swimming from New-York to this place—he informed that the men on board the Roebuck were very sickly, that they had lost 100 since they left the Capes of Virginia. He also gave notice, that preparation had been made to attack this post—that a number of large ships were to come up and endeavour to silence our batteries, while a large body of troops in boats which we discovered on the opposite shore above us, and endeavour to cut off our retreat—that it was to have been executed this morning, but the fire prevented.

22. As no reinforcement could be sent us, we received orders this morning to remove our artillery, its res and baggage, and hold ourselves in readiness to retreat, and before night in it of them were removed.

About 9 A. M. we saw the enemy embarking in flat-bottomed boats, about two miles above us, who appeared in large numbers on the shore, after their boats, (about 30) were full. Four ships at the same time came to sail below, and stood up towards us, but they soon came to anchor again, and their boats which had pushed off, returned back. Had they come at this time, we must either have retired and left them large quantities of artillery stores, or fought their army and navy at the same time, with our small detachments, and that under every disadvantage; but they saw fit to retire to get more strength, as appeared afterwards, tho' they could not be ignorant of our weakness, as our men were paraded every day in full view of them.

23d. At one o'clock, P. M. having removed every thing of value, we were ordered to retreat upon the Hook. As soon as we began our march, four ships came up and anchored near the shore around the Hook; at the same time a number of boats and floating batteries, came down from just above New-York; the latter ran up into the cove, opposite the caul way, that leads to Bergen. After taking a considerable time to see that there was no body to hurt them, they began a most furious cannonade

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